

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KATHMA 03862 270815Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 IO-13 /044 W  
-----086612 280411Z /11

R 270530Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2761  
INFO USUN 0360

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 3862

FOR NEA ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS FROM HECK

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, UNGA  
SUBJECT: HIGH LEVEL ATTENDANCE AT 33RD UNGA: REQUEST FOR CALL  
ON PRESIDENT BY PRIME MINISTER

REF: (A) STATE 184758, (B) KATHMANDU 1486, (C) KATHMANDU 1450

1. IN CONNECTION WITH THE FORTHCOMING 33RD UNGA, THE DEPARTMENT HAS ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF HEADS OF STATE/HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ATTENDANCE, AND WHETHER THIS IS LIKELY TO LEAD TO REQUESTS FOR MEETINGS WITH THE PRESIDENT.
2. PRIOR TO RECEIPT OF THIS QUERY, WE HAD LEARNED FROM THE DEPARTMENT (NEA/INS) THAT THE NEPALESE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HAS ALREADY PUT OUT FEELERS AS TO WHETHER PRIME MINISTER BISTA MIGHT SEE THE PRESIDENT IF HE GOES TO THE US FOR THE UNGA. WE HAVE NOT DISCUSSED THAT MATTER WITH BISTA HERE.
3. IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT BISTA'S ATTENDANCE AT UNGA WILL HINGE ON WHETHER HE CAN ALSO CALL ON THE PRESIDENT. I HOPE, FOR NUMEROUS REASONS, THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR THE PRESIDENT TO OFFER TO MEET WITH BISTA IN NEW YORK OR WASHINGTON.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KATHMA 03862 270815Z

4. DURING HIS TERM OF OFFICE, BISTA HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR A NUMBER OF GON ACTIONS BENEFICIAL OR WELCOME TO THE U.S. I RECENTLY CALLED THEIR ROLE (REF C), SO I WILL CONFINE MYSELF TO A SUMMARY HERE: UNDER BISTA'S LEADERSHIP, THE GON (A) BACKED AWAY FROM A PLAN TO ENTER INTO OPIUM PROMOTION; (B) DISPATCHED TROOPS TO LEBANON FOR UNIFIL; (C) RELEASED B.P. KOIRALA FROM PRISON FOR MEDICAL

TRAVEL TO THE US AND TOOK OTHER STEPS IN THE DIRECTION OF POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION, WHICH WOULD BE FURTHER ENCOURAGED BY A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT.

5. BEYOND THESE MATTERS, IN WHICH BISTA HIMSELF HAS PLAYED THE KEY ROLE, THERE ARE MORE GENERAL REASONS WHY I URGE HIS RECEPTION BY THE PRESIDENT. NEPAL IS A SMALL COUNTRY FRIENDLY TO THE UNITED STATES. IT IS COMMITTED TO IMPROVING THE LOT OF ITS VERY POOR MAJORITY THROUGH DEVELOPMENT. THE UNITED STATES IS ACTIVELY INTERESTED IN THAT DEVELOPMENT, AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS EXPRESSED US READINESS TO SUPPORT REGIONAL PROJECTS OF POTENTIALLY MAJOR IMPACT FOR NEPAL, MOST RECENTLY DURING THE US VISIT OF INDIAN PRIME MINISTER DESAI. A SIMILAR PRESIDENTIAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE KARNALI PROJECT WITH BISTA WOULD DEMONSTRATE THE SYMMETRY OF OUR SUPPORT, AND THUS SERVE TO DISPEL ANY NEPALESE IMPRESSION THAT WE REGARD NEPAL AS A MERE APPENDAGE OF INDIA, NOT WORTHY OF SEPARATE HANDLING.

6. LASTLY, WHILE WELL AWARE THAT IT IS NOT OF CENTRAL CONCERN TO THE US, NEPAL WOULD WELCOME, AND HAS NOT FOR A LONG TIME HAD, AN OCCASIONAL DISPLAY OF INTEREST IN THE FORM OF A HIGH-LEVEL US VISIT TO NEPAL. THE KING, INDEED, RECENTLY ISSUED AN INVITATION TO THE PRESIDENT, WHICH WAS TACTFULLY DEFERRED. I RECOGNIZE THAT THIS SITUATION IS UNLIKELY TO CHANGE, FOR SOME TIME TO COME, GIVEN OTHER  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KATHMA 03862 270815Z

PRESSURES ON THE TIME OF RANKING US OFFICIALS. BUT IF THE PRESIDENT COULD SEE THE PRIME MINISTER, HOWEVER BRIEFLY, THIS WOULD REINFORCE IN THE MOST TANGIBLE WAY POSSIBLE THE VALUE WE PLACE ON THE THIRTY YEARS OF UNINTERRUPTED GOOD RELATIONS WITH NEPAL (LONGER THAN ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN SOUTH ASIA) AND THE RESPONSIBLE EVEN THOUGH MODEST ROLE NEPAL PLAYS IN WORLD AFFAIRS. YOUR ASSISTANCE TO THAT END WILL BE DEEPLY APPRECIATED.  
HECK

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** 78 STATE 184758, 78 KATHMANDU 1486, 78 KATHMANDU 1450  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014